PROPOSED USE OF THE PLENARY POWERS TO PRESERVE FOR THE WESTERN DIAMOND RATTLESNAKE THE TRIVIAL NAME "ATROX" BAIRD & GIRARD, 1853 (AS PUBLISHED IN THE COMBINATION "CROTALUS ATROX") BY SUPPRESSING THE TRIVIAL NAME "CINEREOUS" LE CONTE IN HALLOWELL, 1852 (AS PUBLISHED IN COMBINATION "CROTALUS CINEREOUS") (CLASS REPTILIA, ORDER SQUAMATA)

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(Commission's reference Z.N.(S.)523)

The purpose of the present application is to ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to preserve the well-known trivial name *atrox* Baird & Girard, 1853 (as published in the binominal combination *Crotalus atrox*) for the western diamond rattlesnake by the use of its plenary powers to suppress the earlier trivial name *cinereous* Le Conte *in* Hallowell, 1852 (as published in the combination *Crotalus cinereous*) (Class Reptilia, Order Squamata).

2. In 1852, Hallowell (: 177) described the rattlesnake *Crotalus lecontei*. This nominal species has since seldom been recognised as valid, its name being usually considered a synonym of *Crotalus confluentus* Say, 1823, or, more recently, of *Crotalus viridis* Rafinesque, 1818. This disposition of *lecontei* Hallowell is undoubtedly correct, as was demonstrated by Stejneger in do Amaral, 1929 (: 87). The validity of *lecontei* has no bearing on the question herein raised.

3. In the course of his description of *lecontei*, Hallowell included the following paragraph :—

> " *Remarks.* My friend Dr. Le Conte informs me that he found near the Colorado, about seven hundred miles from the last mentioned locality, a species of crotalus which was very abundant in that region ; over four feet in length, and which appears to be the same as the one above described. He took the following notes of it upon the spot : ' Crotalus-cinereous ; black with a series of subrhomboidal spots margined with dark brown, and exterior to this a line of white scales ; sides with a few darker cinereous spots ; beneath pale ochraceous ; neck and upper part of head white ; tail white with four black rings,* becoming irregular beneath length 4½ ft. ; greatest circumference 5½ inches ; 185 transverse scales beneath the body, 28 caudal ; fourteen scales in the oblique rows from spine to side in middle and on neck ; nine posteriorly and on tail. Colorado, March, 1851. The dorsal spots became indistinct behind. Sandy deserts.' " [This extract from Le Conte occurs on page 177.]

4. In 1854, Hallowell repeated his description of *lecontei* and again repeated under " Remarks " the quotation from Le Conte's communication. In this reprint the words *Crotalus cinereous* were italicised and the hyphen was omitted, and there were several other minor changes, including the change of the word " black," after the name, to " back."

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*In a young specimen brought by Dr. Woodhouse these four black rings are very distinct.

5. As I have discussed elsewhere (Klauber, 1936 : 194), although Hallowell thought that Le Conte's *cinereous* was the same as the rattlesnake that he (Hallowell) was describing as *C. lecontei*, actually it was a quite different snake. For the description and the type locality, the Colarado [Desert], leave no question but that the description covers the western diamond rattlesnake *Crotalus atrox* Baird and Girard, 1853 (: 5).

6. It seems to me that, although Hallowell had no such intention, his inclusion of Le Conte's manuscript name and description constitutes a valid description under *Opinion* 4 of the Commission, as further discussed in vol. 1, part 13, pp. 103-114, of the *Opinions and Declarations*, 1944 ; and that the name *Crotalus cinereous* Le Conte in Hallowell, 1852, anticipates *Crotalus atrox* Baird and Girard, 1853. Gloyd (1940 : 205) has taken a contrary view, primarily because of the inclusion of the dash and the lack of italics in the first publication of Le Conte's manuscript description.

7. Although I sought to establish *Crotalus cinereous* as the proper name of the western diamond rattlesnake in 1936, at a time when no official means were available for the conservation of trivial names, I am quite willing to withdraw from that position, now that a procedure for such conservation has been duly established. Therefore I suggest that this question be finally settled by stabilising the long-established and currently utilised name *atrox* Baird & Girard for this species. It is important that this be done, since the name *atrox* is employed not only by systematists, but likewise also extensively by the medical profession, for the western diamond rattlesnake in the United States. The concrete proposals now submitted are that the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature should :—

(1) use its plenary powers to suppress the trivial name *cinereous* Le Conte *in* Hallowell, 1852 (as published in the binominal combination *Crotalus cinereous*) for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy ;

(2) place the trivial name *atrox* Baird & Girard, 1853 (as published in the binominal combination *Crotalus atrox*) on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* :

(3) place the trivial name *cinereous* Le Conte *in* Hallowell, 1852 (as published in the binominal combination *Crotalus cinereous*), as proposed, in (1) above, to be suppressed under the plenary powers, on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Trivial Names in Zoology*.

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PROPOSED USE OF THE PLENARY POWERS TO PRESERVE THE TRIVIAL NAME "POLYSTICTA" COPE, 1865 (AS PUBLISHED IN THE COMBINATION "CAUDISONA POLYSTICTA") FOR THE MEXICAN LANCE-HEADED RATTLESNAKE, BY SUPPRESSING THE TRIVIAL NAME "MULTIMACULATA" JAN, 1863 (AS PUBLISHED IN THE COMBINATION "CROTALUS LUGUBRIS VAR. MULTIMACULATA") (CLASS REPTILIA, ORDER SQUAMATA)

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The purpose of the present application is to ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to use its plenary powers to suppress the trivial name *multimaculata* Jan, 1863 (as published in the combination *Crotalus lugubris* var. *multimaculata*) (Class Reptilia, Order Squamata), thereby preserving the trivial name *polysticta* Cope, 1865 (as published in the combination *Caudisona polysticta*), the name now and for many years universally employed (in the combination *Crotalus polystictus*) for the Mexican lanceheaded rattlesnake. The details of this case are set out in the following paragraphs.

2. In 1865, Cope (: 191) described the Mexican lance-headed rattlesnake as *Caudisona polysticta*, and this name has been almost universally applied (in the combination *Crotalus polystictus*) to this snake ever since. Indeed, there has since been only a single synonym allocated to this species, this being *Crotalus jimenezii* Dugès, 1877 (: 23). Yet without doubt, under a strict interpretation of the Rules, the proper name for this snake is *Crotalus multimaculatus* Jan, 1863.